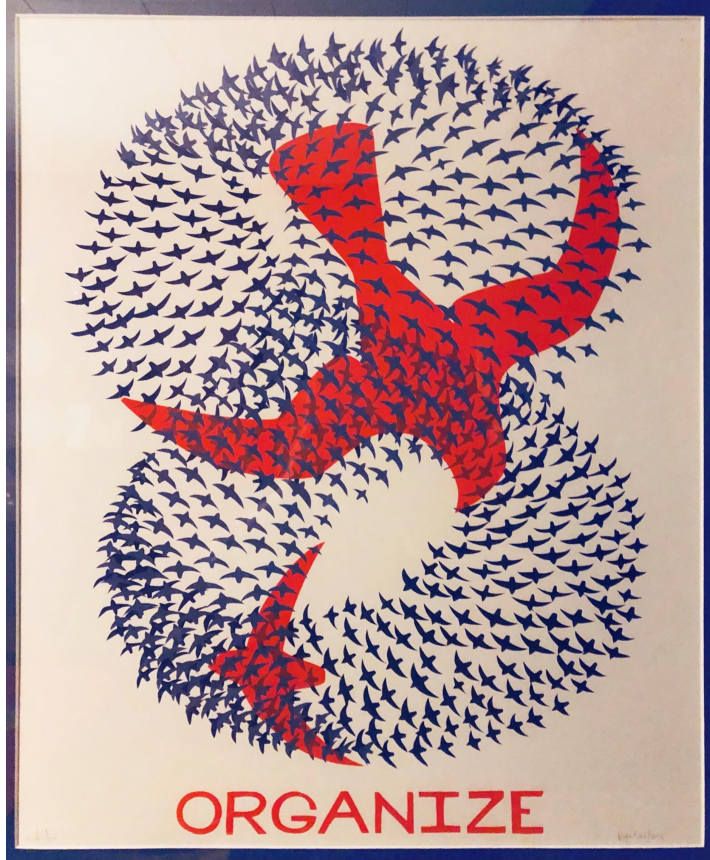




THE
SUSTAIN RURAL
WISCONSIN
NETWORK

established 2009

Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network



Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network's (SRWN) mission is to assemble a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to protecting public health, the environment, and economic vitality of rural communities.

55 Local and Statewide Groups

- 29 Grassroots Community Groups
- 26 Non-Profit Organizations
- Thousands of individual rural and urban residents across Wisconsin

Mapmakers of Democracy



Elected officials are the map-makers for an America that is equitable, compassionate, and resilient. They pave the way, with policy creation and the allocation of taxpayer dollars, for the direction of this country and the quality of our lives.

Legislation is nothing more than a community's values codified into law — a way for the community to state who they are and what they value.

SRWN's Foundational Values

#1 - Strongly support sustainable, fair, and balanced relations with the agricultural industry.

#2 - Everyone has a right to clean and abundant water.

#3 - Regardless of sector, industry has a moral, ethical, and a legal obligation to protect the environment and community members from contamination caused by their individual operations.

#4 - Cost of factory farm pollution and clean-up should not be transferred to the injured party.



All food comes from some **PLACE**
and that place is someone's **HOME**.
sustainruralwisconsin.org



Task Force Observations

- Everybody wants money
- Importance/emphasis regarding changes being implemented; cover crops, no till, rotational grazing, increase buffer zones
- Lacking acknowledgment and/or open discussion identifying the distinction between Independent Farmers and Corporate Agriculture
- One size fits all Nutrient Management Plans are not working
- County Conservationist and WDNR are the local experts

Time for action, not more studies

Few solutions given for high nitrate levels in Armenia, Port Edwards water

Karen Madden, Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune Published 1:31

CT July 18, 2018

BREAKING TOPICAL TOP STORY
SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN | TESTS OF WATER QUALITY
Hazardous drinking water found in 42% of southwest Wisconsin wells
Jan 2, 2019
STEVEN VERBURG sverburg@madison.com Wisconsin-Madison

Scientist Hopes Study Helps Solve Kewaunee County Well Contamination Challenge
By SUSAN BENCE • JUN 20, 2019



A Groundwater Flow Model for the Little Plover River Basin in Wisconsin's Central Sands

Division of Extension

Voluntary practices are not solutions



SRWN fully supports voluntary sustainable practices such as cover crops, no till farming, and rotational grazing.

We support land conservation funds being used to educate and incentives farmers to put these practices into action

HOWEVER, Voluntary participation can NOT be viewed as a solution to our current water contamination situation

Changes in WI Agriculture require a change in our policies, permitting, and regulations.



What are the chances of real change coming?

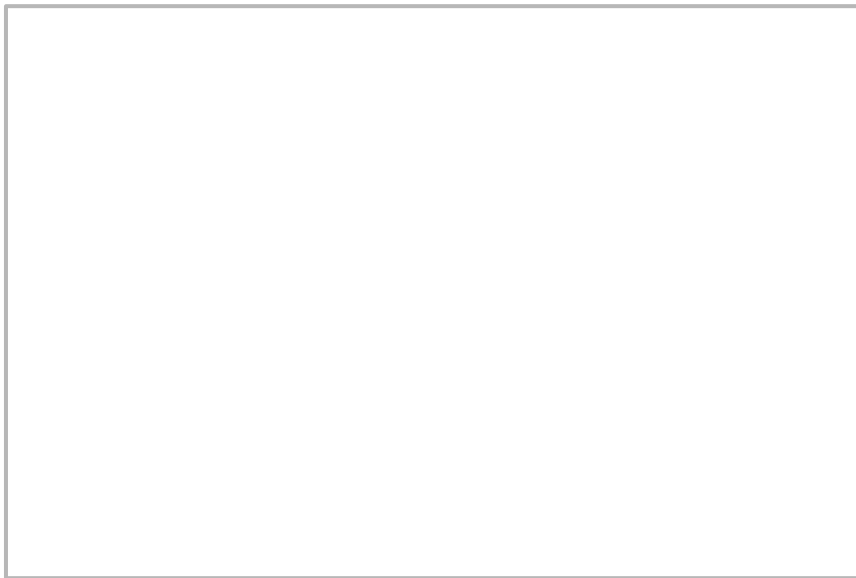
DATCP Livestock Siting Technical Expert Committee

- Act 235 passed in 2003, 1st set of standards implemented in 2006
- FAIR and BALANCED agreement between Wisconsin agriculture and local governments to oversee CAFOs operated in an environmentally friendly and safe manner to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents.
- Committee convenes every 4 years
- Due to political influence standards have **NEVER** been updated

Voss / Fitzgerald Letter to DATCP

- July 3rd letter to Secretary Brad Pfaff from Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald instructing them to NOT bring ACTP 51 recommended revisions to the public.
- Already instructed Agricultural Committee Chairman Howard Marklein and Gary Tauchen **“to reject the current revisions and to send them back to DATCP”**

Recommendations



- Fund land conservation departments and allow for individual county discretion on allocation of funds toward water protection efforts with accountability and reporting measures outlined
- Return and boost funding to the WDNR to enhance/strengthen CAFO monitoring program. Additionally, Amend Act 21 to once again empower the WDNR to do their job at the level it was intended without the Legislative interference that currently exists

Recommendations



- Re-vamp Nutrient Management Plans, one size does not fit all regarding both geographical region AND facility size
- Require ALL Nutrient Management Plans to have groundwater protection safeguards written into plans and monitored for compliance
- Mandatory reporting to appropriate agencies and local residents when monitoring well show levels of contamination

Recommendations

► REALITY CHECK ◀

AG INDUSTRY: “NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT”

REALITY: Phosphorus from industrial agriculture runoff is a leading cause of dangerous algae blooms in lakes. A pound of phosphorus can produce up to 500 pounds of algae.

“WRECKED-REACTION”

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PHOTO CREDIT: RHONDA CARRELL

- Raise CAFO fees and create a sliding scale, the larger the facility the larger the fee with fees going to solely to the CAFO fund.
- Allow communities to require bonds of CAFOs to help defray the cost of polluted water and other environmental contamination that may result

Recommendations

► REALITY CHECK ◀

AG INDUSTRY: “FEEDING THE WORLD”

REALITY: In 2015, less than one percent of U.S. agricultural exports went to countries with high or very high levels of undernourishment.

“FLOODING THE MARKET”

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PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW SCHUBERT

- Anti-trust legislation and enforcement -- how has consolidation, and the subsequent massive growth in mega-farms, in agriculture contributed to water issues?
- Supply management -- how would that policy contribute to cleaning up Wisconsin's water?

Recommendations



- Citizen groups, not just industry and environmental non-profits, need a seat at the table
- Restore local control over the siting and management of mega-farms to county governments. The state can determine minimum standards (the 'floor') but local elected officials can set the 'ceiling'

Recommendations



- Support a state-wide moratorium on new and expanding mega-farms until protective measures are put into place to protect public health and safety

Words for Water



Thank You



“CEASE BEING
INTIMIDATED BY
THE ARGUMENT
THAT A RIGHT
ACTION IS
IMPOSSIBLE
BECAUSE IT DOES
NOT YIELD
MAXIMUM PROFITS,
OR THAT A WRONG
ACTION IS TO BE
CONDONED
BECAUSE IT PAYS.”

~ ALDO LEOPOLD

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